

## THE AMATEUR PAPER-HANGER.

Dramatis personae: He and She, his wife.

She—Henry, the carrier has brought the wall-paper. Let's begin; the paste is all ready.

He—How much paper did you get?

She—Six pieces. The man said we should want eight, but, of course, he was only trying to cheat me. I know six will be plenty.

He—But suppose we spoil a lot?

She—Ah, but we shan't. It's quite easy. I watched a man doing it at Uncle Fred's last spring, and he didn't spoil a bit. Come along. (They go along.) I've measured the wall and we want ninety inches in each length. (They measure a strip of paper.) Now the paste.

He (pastor)—What stuff is it? I'm sticky up to my elbows already. If I'd known what a messy job it was, I'd have had a man to do it.

She—But think what we save. We shall do the whole room for half a crown. We'll begin in this corner. Take the strip by the top and get on to the step ladder. Be attentive to do several feet of paper curl around his legs and adhere firmly to his trousers.

He (tearing off the paper)—Just look at my clothes! How on earth can I walk about with a dozen yards of this flimsy stuff, without getting mixed up in it?

She—There, I quite forgot. We ought to have turned up the end. Never mind; better luck next time.

He—There's eight feet of paper wasted, anyhow. (A length is pasted and hung.) Rather funny, isn't it?

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He—Now all the confounded color begins to run! That comes of buying such wretched cheap stuff.

She—But think what we save for a nursery and it won't look bad when it's all over. Next strip.

He (examining paper)—Look here, Dolly, this paper isn't all the same color. The bit on the left is ever so much darker than the roll.

She—So it is! They must have given us a faded piece. What a shame!

He—Then they just have to take it back. Won't they chuck it up till we get the proper stuff?

She—I'm afraid we must. They chuck it up. After an interval she returns and finds that the hung paper has become lighter on drying. Operations are resumed.

He (after hanging another strip)—Hullo! What's this confounded space all down the side?

She—How stupid of us! We never cut off the edge.

He—Stupid of us! I like that! I don't pretend to know anything about it.

She—Don't be angry, dear. We're sure to make a few mistakes at first. We can easily cover the joint. Cut the edge off the next piece, anyhow.

He—The roll goes through several inconvenient automatic evolutions.

He—Boa constrictors aren't in it with this squirming paper. I wish you'd hold it steady. Look! the miserable thing has rolled up on one point of the scissors and made a great hole.

She—Never mind, dear. It won't show when it's up. You might hang the strip to the wall and try to get it straight. That last one doesn't nearly fit at the ceiling.

He (testily)—When I put it straight at the top you said it didn't fit at the side. I can't help it. I've done the best I can. What's that invented wall-paper? (Savagely.) I should like to kick him.

She—For goodness sake don't lose your temper. You're making me nervous. (Groaning.) All right; come on. (On the ladder.) How am I to hang this with that bell thing in that way?

He—Can't you pull it out and put it back afterwards?

She (crossly)—I'm afraid not. Both my hands are engaged and I can't reach it with my teeth.

She—Now be silly. I'll hold the paper. Now try.

He—It's a dead fixture. If I get it out half the wall will come down.

She—Then we must cut the paper to fit it. Just measure where the bell comes. Use measure. She tries to cut the wet paper, which drags on the floor and gets hopelessly crumpled.

He—That's no good. Another piece wasted.

She—What does one strip matter? I must cut it before we paste. (Does so.) While he is adjusting it the stepladder wobbles. He characteristically loses his footing and a large piece of damp paper falls.

He—That's pretty, isn't it? I won't waste these rotten scraps any more. (Hurling the scraps out of doors.)

She (soothingly)—You can stand on a chair, dear. It will be ever so much easier to move about.

He (after a great struggle to make the paper fit)—Just measure where the bell comes. Use measure. She tries to cut the wet paper, which drags on the floor and gets hopelessly crumpled.

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## RELIGIOUS NEWS AND THOUGHT.

GATHERED FROM THE RELIGIOUS AND SECLAR PRESS.

Words of Wisdom and Thoughts Worth Pondering on Religious and Moral Subjects.

A Steadfast Faith.

"A steadfast faith is necessary to steadfast conduct. According to the faith is the life. If that is uncertain and unsettled, fixed at no point, the result will be an unsteadiness in the spiritual life. A lack of purpose in the man at the helm will make the course of the ship at sea very erratic, and perhaps result in the uttermost destruction. The only safety for the soul, the only safety for the church is to be found in accepting the true doctrine of salvation and continuing in it, and doing the New Testament Christians, doing the work of the Lord, and perfecting the religious character by acts of righteousness."—Independent.

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that of honesty, absolute and unqualified honesty, writes Edward W. Bok in May Ladies' Home Journal. All the rules of business are worthless if they are not founded on that one and only foundation stone to true commercial success. Honesty is not alone the best policy in business; it is the one and only policy. Upon it, and upon it alone, can a good reputation be built, and a man in business without a reputation for honesty might just as well stop. Any deviation from the rule of honesty in business may bring temporary gain, but it invariably means permanent loss. On the other hand, a strict adherence to an honest policy may mean a temporary loss, but it is sure to result in a permanent gain.

**Little Things.**  
Just a little dewdrop brightens up the flower.  
Growing by the wayside or in shady bowers.  
Just one little songster, singing in the tree.  
Make the place around him ring with melody.  
Just a little candle, shining in the dark.  
Drives away the shadows with each tiny spark.

So each little effort, though 'tis small and weak,  
Will be blessed of Jesus, if his aid we seek.  
Just one cup of water, given in his name;  
Just a song of praises, just a little flame.  
Shown to those about you in some word or deed.  
To the great Light-giver will some other lead.—Churchman.

**Compromises.**  
"All government, indeed, every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue and every prudent act, is founded on compromise and barter. We balance inconveniences; we give and take; we remit some rights that we may enjoy others, and we choose rather to be happy citizens than subtle disputants. As we must give away some natural liberty to enjoy civil advantages, so we must sacrifice some civil liberties for the advantages to be derived from the communion and fellowship of a great empire. But, in all fair dealings, the thing bought must bear some proportion to the purchase paid. None will barter away the immediate glory of his soul."—Edmund Burke.

**The Noblest Conception.**  
"Perhaps the noblest conception of religion ever given to the world is found in the book of Proverbs, which combines the shrewdness of Rochefoucauld and the reverence of Pascal, where there is an easy mastery of this world combined with a profound sense of the world to come. Proverbs is a repository of advice on the conduct of life, and its directions are grounded not on the suggestions of a petty cunning, but on the rock of wisdom. With the author of Proverbs wisdom and religion are synonymous."—Lan Maslawn.

**Seed Thoughts.**  
No text so good to abide in as content.—Golden Rule Proverbs.  
Rather than spurn God for the ill that have befallen thee, thank him for those which have not befallen thee.—T. Van Patten.

The smile that is worth the praises of earth is the smile that shines through tears.—Lilla Wheeler Wilcox.  
Our friends should take the plainness of enemies in accusing, and still maintain it with the tenderness of a mother's affection.—Jeremy Taylor.

Like Alpine climbers, our only safety is in steadfastly fixing our gaze on him, our ruler, and following step by step the path he trod, that he might know all the dangers and difficulties that beset our way.—Rosa Fortson.

Eternity! Eternity! Mark well, oh man, Eternity!  
Came there a bird each thousandth year.  
A seed grain from the hills to bear;  
When all is vanished, grain by grain,  
Eternity would still remain.

**An Appeal to the Churches.**  
The following letter has been addressed by Francis E. Willard to Christian ministers of all denominations:  
Private letters which I have myself seen, from a number of American residents in Turkey, of unimpeachable character, have fully confirmed the worst reports of the recent massacre of Armenian Christians by the Turks and Kurds. This is only the latest type of a systematic course of heart-breaking oppression and persecution extending over many years.

It is only under the pressure of aroused public opinion that governments have taken action. After the Bulgarian massacres, 400 public meetings of protest were held in England. I would therefore earnestly urge that every Christian minister devote one Sunday evening meeting to a consideration of the situation of the Armenian Christians in Turkey, and that the meeting pass resolutions of protest, signed in person, and tender to those lately adopted by the Evangelical Alliance.

Ministers intending to preach on the subject, or anyone wishing of secure the passage of resolutions, may any club or society, can be supplied with documents and data, free of charge, by addressing Mrs. Isabel C. Barrows, 14 Franklin street, Boston, Mass.

Let us "remember those in bonds as bound with them."  
FRANCIS E. WILLARD.

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Refers to Hon. Heber J. Grant, Salt Lake City.

**THE OLD NEGRO'S SERMON.**  
Hab you ever seen de sunshine shinin' in de early mornin',  
Makin' shadows through de chicken in de yard,  
Playin' on de dusty stove-hearth; peek-a-boon on de wall;  
Creepin' up and down de cupboard, lookin' short and den so tall?

Neber for a moment tirin', neber seemin' out of sorts,  
Or a gettin' mad and firin', and a makin' busy retort;  
Just a shinin' round so happy, and as busy as can be,  
Cheerin' up de sad and lonely, and a cheerin' you, you see.